



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Mexico

### Solid Wood Products

### Responses to Public Comments on Proposed Standard for New Sawn Lumber

**2003**

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**Report Highlights:**

On June 25, Mexico published its awaited responses to the public comments of the proposed standard for new sawn lumber (see MX 8061 and MX 0154). Based on these responses, it appears the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) will drop the onerous phytosanitary requirement that would have obstructed U.S. exports when it publishes it as a final rule.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Mexico [MX1]  
[MX]

On June 25, 2003, the Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") its responses to the public comments of the controversial proposed wood import standard entitled: PROY-NOM-016-RECNAT-2001, "Regulation for the Importation of New Lumber and Wood," as published February 6, 2002 (see MX 8061 and MX 0154).

Based on these responses, it appears SEMARNAT will drop the onerous phytosanitary requirement that would have impeded U.S. exports when it publishes NOM-016 as a final rule. A preliminary analysis of SEMARNAT's responses revealed that it addressed those comments submitted by USDA and, to a large extent, agreed with most of them. SEMARNAT only rejected the USDA comment on new lumber which has been treated chemically. According to USDA, new lumber which has been chemically treated cannot have a phytosanitary certificate issued by APHIS, as it is considered to be processed wood. SEMARNAT replied, however, that the chemical treatment considered in the proposed standard is referring to fumigation or insecticide application.

Official sources indicate that NOM-016 will likely be published in the second half of 2003.